



Washington State Department of Transportation FACT SHEET

Emergency Medical Helicopter Service

How will Emergency Medical Service be Provided During Full Closures of the Bridge?

Over the past year, WSDOT met repeatedly with local emergency services and health care providers from both sides of the river to discuss how to maintain timely emergency medical service to Oregon residents during the bridge closures. At these meetings, a series of alternatives were explored, refined, and evaluated with these primary objectives:

- Provide timely access to 24-hour medical critical care facilities during the bridge closures
- Address medical travel by both emergency services (ambulances) and privately owned vehicles
- Must be reliable
- Should be supported by public and emergency services



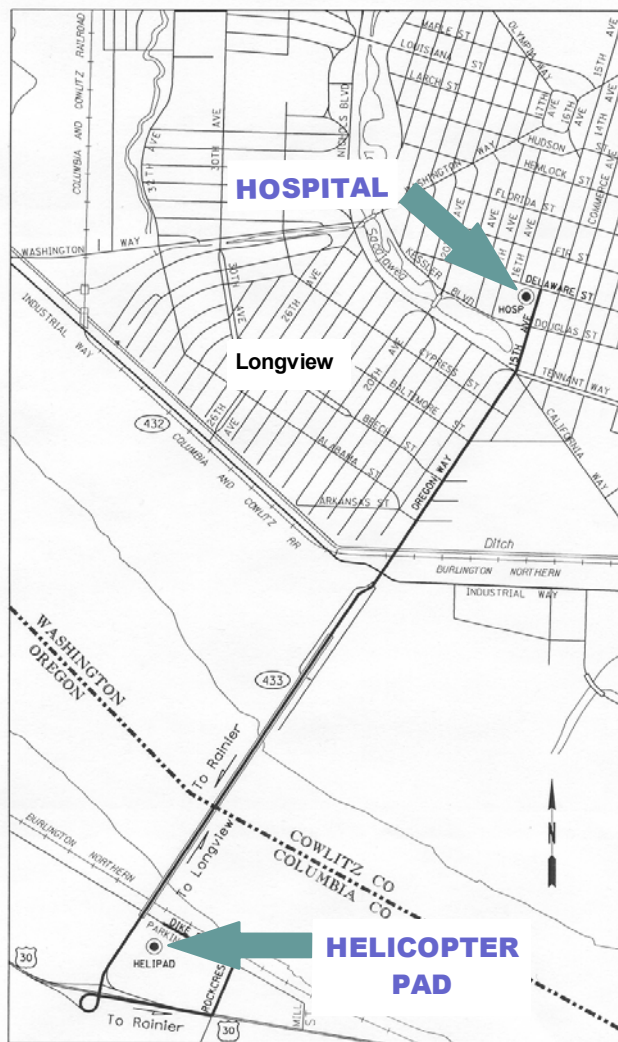
It was decided through this evaluation process that the best way to ensure that patients with life-threatening illnesses or injuries are transported quickly to the nearest hospital would be by **emergency medical helicopter**. The helicopter service is slightly less expensive than the ambulance-only ferry that also was discussed at several public meetings last spring and provides a better response time.

Who is Providing the Emergency Medical Helicopter Service?

WSDOT has signed an agreement with Life Flight Network to provide the helicopter service during the bridge deck replacement project. Life Flight Network is a consortium of three health systems: Legacy Health System, Oregon Health Sciences University and Providence Health System.

When will this Service be Available?

The helicopter will be available for emergency medical transport on the nights and weekends when the bridge is completely closed to all traffic.



Where is the Helicopter Pad Located?

The helicopter landing and take off site is located on the Oregon side of the river on the east side of the bridge, across the street from Conrad Wood Preserving and Teevin Brothers Log Yard. It is located on Dike Road, which is accessible from US 30 from Rockcrest Street.

How Much Does it Cost?

Use of the emergency medical helicopter service is FREE of charge. Neither you, nor your insurance company will ever be billed for it.

Who Determines Whether or Not a Patient Actually Needs Helicopter Transport?

In addition to the helicopter pilot, a registered nurse and paramedic will be stationed at the helicopter pad during full closures of the bridge. They will be able to assess an incoming patient's condition if they did not arrive by ambulance and

determine whether or not they need immediate transport using the helicopter. If the patient is in an ambulance, the paramedics with the ambulance will be able to determine whether or not they need immediate transport using the helicopter.

What Happens if the Helicopter is Away Transporting Someone and Another Patient Arrives at the Helicopter Pad?

When the helicopter is already transporting someone else, the medical crew will call 911 and request that an ambulance come and wait at the helicopter pad in case someone else needing medical transport arrives. If an ambulance isn't waiting when someone arrives, there will be a telephone on site so the new arrival can call 911 and request an ambulance meet them there.